

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

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1. The G.I. Petrovskiy Machine Construction Plant (Metallurgicheskiy Zavod) was located on the northern outskirts of Kherson (N 46-40, E 32-35), near the Kherson-Kiev railroad line. As far as I know, it was an old plant built before the Revolution and expanded by the Soviets later. In 1941, before the German attack on Kherson, the plant had already started its evacuation to a location in the Urals. However, the Germans came too close to Kherson for the evacuation to be completed, so most of the machinery had to be left behind. After the war the plant was reorganized and resumed production in the fall of 1945. It was the largest plant in Kherson Oblast. I never visited the plant and do not know the names of the leading personnel. My information is limited to what is more or less common knowledge in Kherson.

2. After the war the Petrovskiy Plant manufactured locomotives, mainly, centrifuges (sic; possibly turntables), and certain other machinery. The plant buildings and railroad spurs were visible from the Kherson railroad station and from the train.

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The plant was composed of approximately eight long, one-story, brick buildings with glass roofs. The administration building was a two-story structure. The plant was connected to the main Kherson-Kiev railroad line by three spurs which entered the plant area.

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3. According to what I heard in Kherson, the plant's annual postwar production reached up to 100 locomotives. Six thousand workers were employed at the plant, working around the clock in three eight-hour shifts. About 30% of the workers were women. Wages paid in the plant were comparatively high and amounted on the average to 700 rubles per month. Skilled metal-processing workers and machine-tool operators received as much as 1,000 to 1,200 rubles monthly. There was no plant housing project for the workers, and they lived mostly in the Kherson district called "Sukharnoye", which was located southeast of the plant; this had originally been an uninhabited locality, but workers eventually built themselves small one- or two-family homes there. I never heard that the state bank or plant administration granted the workers any loans; as far as I know, construction was paid for wholly out of money saved by the individual workers.

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Comment. This plant is known to this office as the Petrovskiy Agricultural Equipment Factory, and there is no information to indicate that it produces locomotives or other railroad equipment. Possibly some sort of self-propelled farm machinery is meant. The Krasnaya Zvezda Machinery Plant in Kherson produces some railroad equipment, such as locomotives. The Petrovskiy Agricultural Equipment Factory in Kherson

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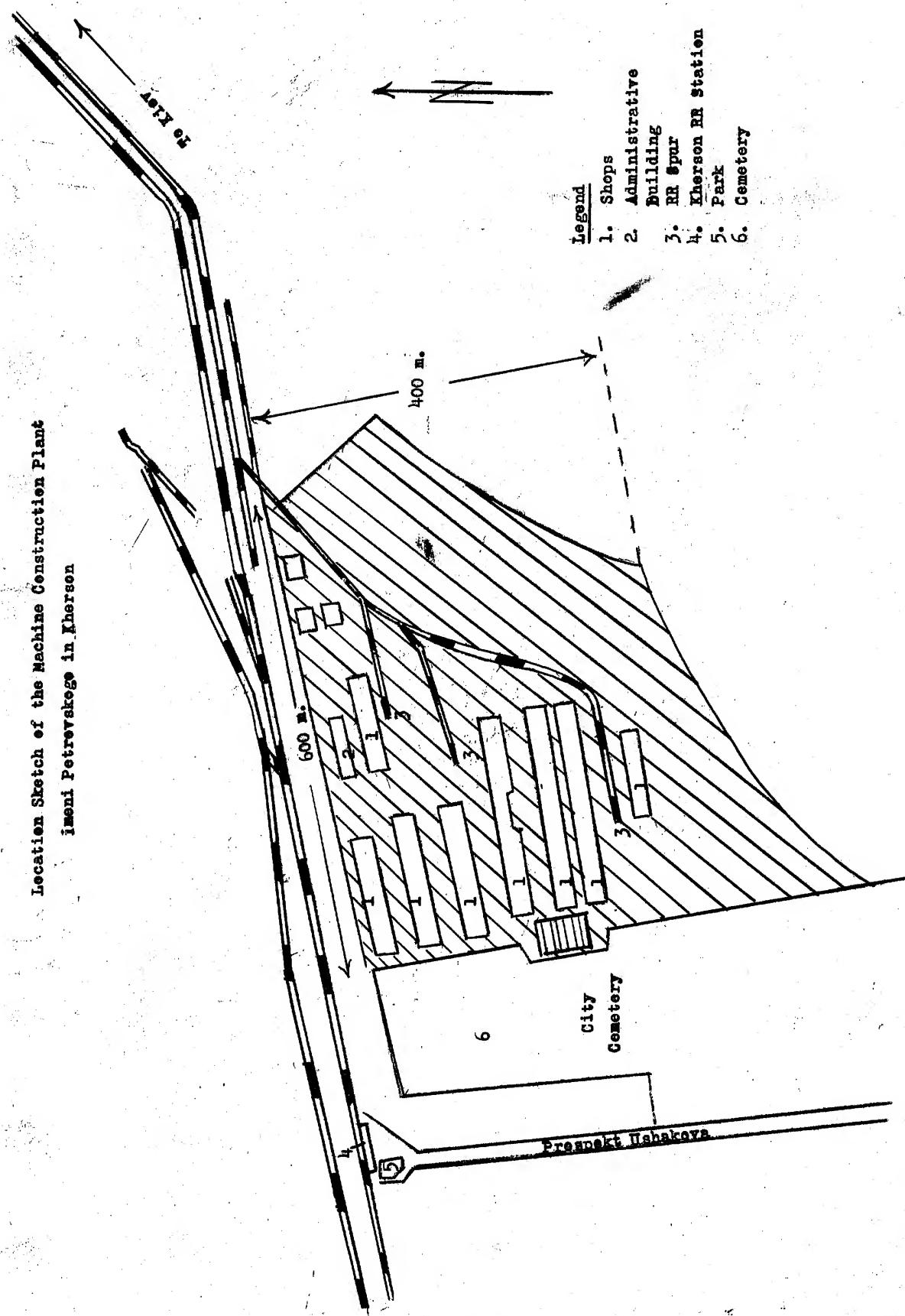
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Location Sketch of the Machine Construction Plant

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